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Dear Parent/Guardian

## Year 8 Options Further Information for Parents and Pupils

I am writing to further inform you of the important events taking place in the next few weeks which aim to offer guidance and support for both you and your child regarding their options choices. The calendared dates are shown below.

| Date               | Event   | Detail  |  |
|--------------------|---|---|--|
| 10 February        | Full Report                                       |   |  |
| 10 February        | Key Stage 4 booklet<br><br>Options form published | Options booklet containing information about the options process and the subjects your child can opt for.<br><br>contain a recommendation about the types of subjects your child is best suited to study. |  |
| 1 March            | Key Stage 4<br>6.30pm<br>Options Evening          | Information about the options process and the opportunity to meet with teachers from the optional subjects.   |  |
| 7 March            | 8G1; 8G2, 8P1<br>Progress Meeting                 | The meeting for parents and students in these tutor groups.   | An opportunity to meet with your progress etc. Mr Johnson will also be available to discuss the options process and selections with you. |
| 9 March            | 8P2, 8T1, 8T2<br>Progress Meeting                 | The meeting for parents and students in these tutor groups.   |  |
| 13 March<br>(p.m.) | Options surgeries                                 | Mr Johnson will be available, for 15 minute consultations with parents and students who may have further questions or issues about the options.   |  |
| 14 March<br>(a.m.) | Options surgeries                                 | Mr Johnson will be available, for 15 minute consultations with parents and students who may have further questions or issues about the options.   |  |
| 17 March           | Option form submission                            | Option forms submitted by Year 8 students to their tutor.   |  |

## **Options Booklet, Recommended Pathway and Option Form**

On Friday 10 February

as to which curriculum pathway your child should follow including an options form which should be filled in and returned on by Friday 17 March.

The options booklet contains information about the curriculum pathways and details of each subject on offer. This can be used, in conjunction with the information evening and progress meetings, to help you and your child make options choices.

### **Curriculum Pathways**

To help guide students and parents in their selection of subjects we place all students into Options Pathways. These do not represent any kind of streaming or setting process. Rather they are a means of guiding students and parents towards the subjects that experience has shown those students in that particular pathway are likely to succeed in.

These pathways are:

**Blue** students are required to study the English Baccalaureate (please see below for further details).

**Green** students are not required to study the English Baccalaureate but may do so if they choose.

**Yellow** students are not required to study the English Baccalaureate and who may be best advised to study practical or vocational subjects.

### **Core Curriculum**

Irrespective of their pathway all students in the year group will study for GCSEs in:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- At least one of History or Geography
- Religious Studies

### **English Baccalaureate**

The majority of students in Year 8 will be required to study those subjects that make up what is known as the English Baccalaureate. These are English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language.

The students who will be required to do so are those who are above average ability as measured by the levels achieved in their Key Stage 2 assessments.

All other students will be given a wide range of subjects to select from. Students who are not required to study the English Baccalaureate will still have the option of selecting a language, History or Geography as appropriate.

